ATTY. DOCKET NO. **SERIAL NUMBER** PTO-1449 (Modified) 00137.00026 10/633,592 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **APPLICANT** RALF BIRKELBACH ET AL. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT GROUP ART UNIT **BY APPLICANT FILING DATE** August 5, 2003 **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** XAMINER **DOCUMENT** NUMBER DATE NAME **CLASS CLASS** INITIAL 11/1996 **HOLLANDER** 5,570,983 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS SUB **EXAMINE** DOCUMENT INITEAL NUMBER DATE COUNTRY CLASS CLASS 7125294 7/1973 **GERMANY** 11/2000 **GERMANY** 198 31 269 X 199 60 287 **GERMANY** 7/2001 32 35 352 3/1984 **GERMANY** х 28 53 976 6/1980 **GERMANY** X FRANCE 1,483,931 5/1967 504 782 3/1992 **EPO** X 589 398 9/1993 **EPO** OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) Patent Abstract of Japan, E-1277, October 9, 1992, Vol. 16, No. 488, JP 4-179294 A, 6/25/1992, DATE CONSIDERED 2/04 **EXAMINER** EXAMINER: Initial citation if reference was considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance to MPEP 609 and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.